Claim 1

An indexing means for a non-rotating circular core cutting knife comprising,

a) a circular knife defining a central orifice and a positional index adjacent to the central orifice,

b) a knife mounting mandrel sized to pass through and closely fit the central orifice,

c) an positional index engaging means secured to the mandrel,

d) a means for securing the knife in place on the mandrel,

e) a worm gear secured to the mandrel,

f) a worm shaft having as a part thereof a worm and the worm is operably engaged with the worm gear,

g) an overrunning coupling operably secured to the worm shaft so that the coupling in an engaged portion of a cycle rotates the knife in the direction of rotation of a core being cut.

h) a means for counting cutting cycles of the knife and a means for counting indexing cycles of the indexing means,

i) a means for activating the knife indexing means when a preset number of cutting cycles has been completed and a means for

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terminating cutting operations when a predetermined number of indexing cycles has been completed and a predetermined number of cutting cycles has been completed.

Claim 2

A method of automating the operations of the means of claim 1 comprising: the steps of,

a) making a cut,

b) stepping a cut counter,

c) interrogating the cut counter,

d) repeating steps a-c until the cut counter reaches a preset value,

e) indexing the knife,

f) stepping an index counter,

g) interrogating the index counter

h) resetting the cut counter,

i) repeating steps a-h until the index counter reaches a preset value,

j) terminating cutting operations when the index counter has reached the preset value.